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# An Austrian O.S.S. Man Is Linked to Waldheim

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 24 — Austria's first postwar Foreign Minister said today that he hired Kurt Waldheim as his personal secretary in 1946 on the recommendation of a member of his staff who had worked for the American Office of Strategic Services and who would later become the son-in-law of Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1950's.

Karl J. Gruber, 78, a former anti-Nazi resistance leader who served as the Austrian Foreign Minister from 1946 to 1963, said the recommendation came from the Foreign Ministry's young first secretary, Fritz Molden, heir to an Austrian publishing empire. Mr. Gruber said Mr. Molden gave Mr. Waldheim a strong recommendation after checking Mr. Waldheim's background with the four Great Powers, including the United States. At the time, Austria was under Allied occupation.

"Molden investigated him and found no material on him, nothing, nothing," Mr. Gruber said in a telephone interview from Washington. He added that Mr. Molden "soon became the son-in-law of Allen Dulles and so had the opportunity to do a thorough investigation."

## Old School Friends

Mr. Dulles, a lawyer, had served as a prominent official in the O.S.S. during World War II. In 1951 he became Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and from 1953 to 1961 was Director of Central Intelligence. In 1948, Mr. Molden married his daughter Joan.

Mr. Molden had been an Austrian resistance fighter and had entered the Austrian Foreign Service after serving as a lieutenant with the O.S.S., the American wartime intelligence agency, in Italy. He and Mr. Waldheim, who joined the Austrian Foreign Service in 1945, had been school friends in Vienna.

Mr. Waldheim, who would become Secretary General of the United Nations in the 1970's, now is running for the Austrian presidency.

His connection to Mr. Molden fuels speculation that information about Mr. Waldheim's service in World War II, as a lieutenant in a German Army command that conducted reprisal killings of Yugoslav partisans and the deportation of Greek Jews, may have been suppressed by some governments.

## Subject of Past Not Raised

Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union raised the subject of Mr. Waldheim's past when he ran for Secretary General — successfully in 1971 and 1976 and unsuccessfully in 1981.

Yugoslavia has never explained why it did not follow up an extradition order of the Yugoslav War Crimes Commission for Mr. Waldheim as a wanted war criminal after the war, even though the order said he was working in the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Gruber said that he did not know of the Yugoslav charges until recent weeks, and that if he had known of them as Foreign Minister, he would have "asked Yugoslavia either to withdraw the accusation or to give us material so that we could conduct our own investigation."

Asked why he thought Yugoslavia had never extradited Mr. Waldheim, he said, "I do not have the faintest idea."

## 'One Never Really Knows'

But he did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Waldheim had some connection with American intelligence in the years after the war.

"I don't think it probable, but one never really knows," he said. "It's quite possible that he did. For us, he was an Austrian official."

He added that it was "probable" that Mr. Molden kept up his connections with American intelligence. "It may well be his father-in-law said, 'Work a little for me,'" he said. "He was obviously very trusted by American sources," Mr. Gruber said. "One of the reasons I decided he should work for me was because he had good standing with the Americans."

As personal secretary, Mr. Waldheim accompanied Mr. Gruber on his foreign trips — to London, to Paris,

Washington and Moscow, for example.

Mr. Gruber said he was aware that Mr. Waldheim had served in the Balkans from 1942 to 1945, but only learned of the accusations that have been reported by news organizations several weeks ago.

"He said he was an interpreter and the man who compiled reports," said Mr. Gruber, adding that Mr. Waldheim "always had a fixation" about his service as a combat officer on the Russian front, where he was wounded in 1941.

Mr. Waldheim's service in the Balkans was not given much importance when he was under consideration for a job in Mr. Gruber's office because he did not serve there in a combat role.

Mr. Gruber said, "I urgently needed a personal secretary, one who was very energetic," he recalled. "Very frankly, we did not ask him very much, we didn't put very much importance on it, which might have been a mistake."

Mr. Gruber testified in support of Mr. Waldheim two days ago at hearing in Washington of the House Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations. A member of Austria's Conservative Party, which is supporting Mr. Waldheim's candidacy, Mr. Gruber decided to come forward to support him following requests by Mr. Waldheim and party members.

"My main concern is Austria, that the Germans will jump on this and say, 'You see, the Austrians were worse Nazis than we were,'" he explained. "That worries me much more than anything that is personal."

Of Mr. Waldheim's character, he said, "He was a hard-working civil servant, but you can never look into the soul of another man."